

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04
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R 110900Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 311
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS TUNIS 1794

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB ECON TS

SUBJ: TUNISIA INSTITUTES LABOR CORPS SCHEME

1. ON MARCH 8N 1978, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY A PROPOSAL OUTLINED BY PRIME MINISTER MOUIRA DESIGNED TO MOBILIZE TUNISIA#S UNEMPLOYED YOUTH INTO A NATIONAL LABOR SERVICE. PERSONS BETWEEN 18 AND 30 WHO NEITHER AYE EMPLOYED NOR ENROLLED IN AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONSCRIPTION INTO THIS NEW SERVICE. IT IS ALSO OPEN TO VOLUNTEERS. REPORTEDLY EACH MEMBER WILL BE OBLIGED TO SERVE AT LEAST ONE YEAR, BUT HE MAY OBTAIN RELEASE IF HE OBTAINS OTHER EMPLOYMENT.

2. THE GOALS AND PRIORITIES OF THE PROGRAM, ACCORDING TO NOUIRA'S PRESENTATION BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ARE:
--TO PROVIDE TUNISIAN UNEMPLOYED YOUTH WITH A VIABLE TRADE;
--TO GIVE A SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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YOUNG AND TO EQUIP THEM FOR TUNISIA'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS;
--TO PROVIDE LABOR REQUIRED TO FULFILL CERTAIN PROJECT GOALS IN CURRENT 5-YEAR PLAN, FOR WHICH ADEQUATE AND WILLING MANPOWER HAS NOT BEEN FOUND.

3. FINACNING IS PROVIDED IN THE BUDGETS OF EXISTING PROJECTS

ALREADY APPROVED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
MUCH OF THIS NEW WORK FORCE WILL BE ENGAGED IN RETOYZS-TATION, PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL WILL BE VESTED IN THE VARIOUS REGIONAL GOVERNORS. WHILE NOT SPECIFIED IN NOUIRA'S PRESENTATION, WE UNDERSTAND HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR. AND MOHAMED JOMAA, MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, HAVE RECENTLY INDICATED THAT FOCUS OF LAW WILL BE ON YOUNG MALES. RATES OF PAY AND WORKING CONDITIONS WILL APPROXIMATE THOSE OF SIMILAR EMPLOYMENTS. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT LABOR CORPS WILL NOT WORK IN INDUSTRY, NOR WILL ITS MEMBERS BE ALLOWED TO JOIN UNIONS. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION AS TO HOW MANY YOUTHS MIGHT BE BROUGHT INTO LABOR CORPS SCHEME.

4. COMMENT : GOT OFFICIALS STRESS THAT THIS PLAN HAS BEEN ONE THE STOVE FOR OVER TWO YEARS. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE RECENT CIVIL DISORDERS MOVED IT TO THE FRONT BURNER. THE TEXT OF THE LAW ITSELF IS DUE TO BE PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE WITHIN A FEW DAYS. ABOVE IS DRAWN FROM STATEMENTS MADE BY NOUIRA AND OTHER GOT OFFICIALS.

MULCAHY

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